

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES

SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 9 TALK WITH PRC OFFICIALS, CU/EA EXPRESSED DEPARTMENT'S HIGH REGARD FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS, SAID WE INTEND TO CONTINUE USING IT IN ARRANGING US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES, ADDED WE KNEW OF NO OTHER SIMILARLY QUALIFIED PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, AND EXPRESSED HOPE NC AND CHINESE COULD CARRY ON SAME KIND OF DIRECT NEGOTIATION THAT SCHOLARLY COMMITTEE DOES. WE INDICATED THAT BECAUSE OF CROWDED SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 1974 VISIT OF PRC MUSIC/DANCE TROUPE WAS "NOT CONVENIENT" BUT WE HOPED PRCLO WOULD FURTHER DISCUSS VISIT WITH NC PERHAPS TO ARRANGE SCHEDULING FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR. WE NOTED SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM STILL INTERESTED IN ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT. CHINESE ASKED ABOUT PROPOSED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT NATIONAL GALLERY. END SUMMARY

1. AT OUR REQUEST, PRCLO OFFICERS HSIEH CH'I-MEI AND CHANG CHIH-HSIANG VISITED CU/EA AUGUST 9 FOR OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS THEY RAISED IN JULY 22 MEETING AND TO DISCUSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE MATTERS IN GENERAL. THEY WERE MET
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BY DAVID HITCHCOCK AND ALFRED HARDING.

2. HITCHCOCK WELCOMED PRC AGREEMENT TO NOVEMBER VISIT OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS. WE NOTED NATIONAL

COMMITTEE ON US-CHINA RELATIONS (NC) WOULD PLAY IMPORTANT ROLE IN ORGANIZING THIS DELEGATION, AND HOPED PRCLO AND NC WILL GET TOGETHER SOON TO DISCUSS DETAILS.

3. HITCHCOCK SAID WE STILL GET EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN HAVING ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT VISIT US WEST COAST, AND D'ARGENCE OF SAN FRANCISCO MUSEUM HAS TALKED WITH DEPARTMENT AND PRCLO ABOUT THIS. HSIEH REPLIED HE WOULD MENTION IT TO PEKING. HOWEVER, IN HIS PERSONAL OPINION, GIVEN SHORT TIME AND OTHER FACTORS HE BELIEVED IT WOULD BE "RATHER DIFFICULT" TO ARRANGE.

4. HITCHCOCK TURNED TO USG VIEW OF NC ROLE IN US-PRC CULTURAL EXCHANGES. IN JULY 22 MEETING HSIEH HAD ASKED WHICH US ORGANIZATION WOULD HANDLE PROPOSED MUSICAL/DANCE GROUP VISIT. AT THAT TIME WE HAD REPLIED THAT IN PAST TWO YEARS TWO COMMITTEES, NC AND CSC, HAD HANDLED EXCHANGES, AND WE ASSUMED THIS WOULD CONTINUE. WE NOW WISHED TO ELABORATE ON THIS. USG BELIEVES NC REPRESENTS VERY WIDE CROSS SECTION OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS IN MANY FIELDS AND PROFESSIONS AND THEREFORE IS VERY EFFECTIVE PRIVATE GROUP FOR PROMOTING US-CHINESE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROJECTS. WE KNOW OF NO OTHER US GROUP SO WIDELY REPRESENTATIVE OF DISTINGUISHED AMERICANS INTERESTED IN IMPROVING US-PRC RELATIONS. WE FULLY INTEND TO CONTINUE OUR COOPERATION WITH NSC. WE HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR PRCLO (AND FOR GOVERNMENT IN PEKING) TO WORK DIRECTLY WITH NC ON DETAILS OF EXCHANGE PROJECTS, AS IS DONE WITH CSC. WE UNDERSTAND NC IS LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE PROJECTS FOR 1975 WITH PRCLO AT LATTER'S CONVENIENCE.

5. REFERRING TO HSIEH'S JULY 22 PROPOSAL FOR MUSIC/DANCE GROUP VISIT, HITCHCOCK SAID THAT SINCE USG AND NC BUSY WITH ARRANGEMENTS FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT, NC IS BUSY WITH ORGANIZATION OF UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS' DELEGATION, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND TIME IS SHORT TO ARRANGE CONCERT, SUCH VISIT "WOULD NOT BE CONVENIENT" THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, WE HOPE PRCLO AND NC CAN DISCUSS TIMING OF SUCH A VISIT NEXT YEAR, PERHAPS FAIRLY EARLY IN YEAR. WE ALSO HOPE PRCLO WILL DISCUSS, THROUGH NC, CHARACTER OF TROUPE, WHAT KIND OF TOUR WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE AND HAVE GREATEST IMPACT IN US. HSIEH SAID HE WOULD SO INFORM PEKING, AND ELICIT PEKING'S OPINIONS ON THIS.

6. HITCHCOCK HANDED HSIEH FLOOR PLANS OF NATIONAL GALLERY, PLANS OF PROPOSED STAGING OF ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT, AND LIST OF GALLERY OFFICIALS WORKING ON IT. HSIEH ASKED ABOUT SECURITY CONDITIONS AT NATIONAL GALLERY, AND WE SUGGESTED BRIEFING BY GALLERY FOR PRCLC. HSIEH AGREED TO THIS AND SAID AFTER LOOKING AT FLOOR PLANS AND RELATED DOCUMENTS HE WOULD CALL US SO WE COULD ARRANGE DATE FOR BRIEFING. HSIEH ALSO ASKED FOR SIMILAR MATERIALS FROM KANSAS CITY AND WAS INFORMED WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THESE.

7. HSIEH HAD NO BUSINESS TO BRING UP. MEETING WAS HELD IN FRIENDLY AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE, WITH SOME PERSONAL CHITCHAT AS WELL AS INFORMAL GIVE AND TAKE ON BUSINESS MATTERS. KISSINGER

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